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Message Text

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15
ORIGIN IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EA-06 AF-06 NEA-09 EB-07 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /096 R

66624
DRAFTED BY:IO/CMD:WWWOODBURY
APPROVED BY:IO:WBUFFUM
EUR/WE/KHSHIRLEY

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R 171632Z MAR 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION OECD PARIS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 059125

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BE, UN, UNGA, EGEN
SUBJECT: BELGIAN MINISTER CAHEN'S CALL ON IO ASSISTANT
SECRETARY BUFFUM REGARDING UN ISSUES

1. BELGIAN MINISTER CAHEN CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY
BUFFUM MARCH 14 FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION OF UN ISSUES.
FOLLOWING A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF CYPRUS, CAHEN INQUIRED ABOUT
PROGRESS ON NAMIBIA. BUFFUM SAID THAT WE HAD JUST BEGUN
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CONSULTATIONS WITH BRITISH AND FRENCH ON THIS ISSUE. WE

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HOPE THEN TO MAKE SOME EFFORT WITH SOUTH AFRICA BEFORE THE
SECURITY COUNCIL CONVENES IN ORDER TO FORESTALL CONFRONTATION.
BUFFUM CITED SOME ENCOURAGING SIGNS THAT SOUTH AFRICA
MIGHT BE MORE FLEXIBLE BUT ADDED THAT IT IS DIFFICULT
TO ESTABLISH RIGID TIMETABLE.

2. BUFFUM EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE WARM COOPERATIVE
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR DELEGATIONS IN NEW YORK. SINCE
WE AGREED ON MANY SENSITIVE ISSUES, HE HOPED THAT WE MIGHT
STAY IN TOUCH AS WE MOVE TOWARD SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION.

3. CAHEN SAID THEY HAD BEEN SOMEWHAT WORRIED ABOUT THE US
ATTITUDE TOWARD PARTICIPATION IN THE UN BUT HE HAD
A FEELING THAT OPPOSITION WAS NO LONGER AS SHARP AS IT HAD
BEEN. BUFFUM REPLIED THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO ASSESS BUT
THAT COMING CONGRESSIONAL BUDGETARY HEARINGS WOULD BE THE
ACID TEST.

4. THE ADMINISTRATION WAS MAKING A GOOD FAITH EFFORT TO
MAKE CLEAR TO THE LDC'S THAT WE WISHED A RELATIONSHIP
OF COOPERATION RATHER THAN CONFRONTATION IN THE UN AND
THAT WE WERE TAKING A POSITIVE APPROACH TO THE SEVENTH
SPECIAL SESSION. WE WERE WILLING TO TAKE A FRESH LOOK
AT THE ARRAY OF ISSUES AND WORK OUT A CONSTRUCTIVE
AND POSITIVE PROGRAM. THE SPECIAL SESSION WILL BE A
LITMUS PAPER TEST OF WHETHER THE UNGA CAN CONTINUE
TO BE A WORKABLE FORUM TO DISCUSS ISSUES AND RESOLVE
DIFFERENCES, OR WHETHER THE MILITANT LDC'S LED BY
ALGERIA WOULD USE IT ONLY AS A PLATFORM TO EXPRESS THE
MOST EXTREME POSITIONS.

5. CAHEN SAID HE WAS PLEASED THAT THE US WAS STUDYING
THE RANGE OF ISSUES DIVIDING THE DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES AND SAID THAT THE EC 9 HAD STARTED WORK ON THE
SAME RANGE OF PROBLEMS AND THERE MIGHT BE CONSIDERABLE
PARALLELISM IN OUR VIEWS. BUFFUM SAID THAT WE HAD BEGUN
PRELIMINARY CONSULTATIONS WITH A NUMBER OF INDUSTRIALIZED
COUNTRIES IN PREPARATION FOR THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION
WHICH WAS, OF COURSE, CLOSELY RELATED TO OUR CONSULTATIONS
ON ENERGY MATTERS. WE WOULD ALSO CONSULT WITH THE EC
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ITSELF. WE HOPED TO PROMOTE SOLIDARITY OF LIKE-MINDED
COUNTRIES WITHOUT FORMING A MONOLITHIC BLOC. ROBINSON

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